

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOR BYRNES

FOLLOWING REPEAT USBERLIN 1926 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 22 JUL 77

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USBERLIN 1926

OCT PLEASE PHONE HARPER/BLANE OF EPA (755-8712) UPON
RECEIPT.

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TAGS: SENV, UR, OVIP

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT; DRAFT REPORT TO
PRESIDENT ON MID-YEAR REVIEW (02.00)

1."DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 11-15 I WAS IN THE SOVIET
UNION IN MY CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. SIDE OF THE
US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. THANKS TO DISCUSSIONS
WITH CY VANCE AND FRANK PRESS, ALONG WITH GOOD BRIEFINGS
BY ZBIG BRZEZINSKI'S STAFF, THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND
THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, I WAS WELL PREPARED FOR VERY
PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS. MOST IMPORTANT, I WAS ABLE TO
REASSURE THE SOVIETS OF YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE BASIC
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GOALS OF THE PROGRAM, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PUTTING THEM
ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE PLACING INCREASED EMPHASIS ON
MUTUALITY OF BENEFIT.

2. I ENCOUNTERED NO POLITICAL ELEMENT IN ANY OF MY DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH MY COUNTERPART, DR. ISRAEL, AND HIS STAFF.
AT ALL TIMES I WAS RECEIVED IN AN OPEN, POSITIVE MANNER

AND TREATED TO THE WARMEST OF HOSPITALITY. WHILE ONE OF MY STAFF AND OUR EMBASSY EXCORT OFFICER WERE GIVEN BRIEF "MINI-LECTURES" ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CRUISE MISSILE, THE JUNIOR SOVIETS WHO ADDRESSED THESE POINTS SEEMED CLEARLY UNCOMFORTABLE AT RAISING THE ISSUES AND NEVER AGAIN REFERRED TO THEM. FROM THE CORDIAL, PRODUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE OF OUR MEETINGS AND SOCIAL CONTACTS IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS WISH TO PRESERVE THIS CHANNEL OF PEACEFUL COOPERATION AND WILL AVOID INJECTING PURELY POLITICAL GESTURES WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT.

3. ON THE SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, I GAVE THEM A CLEAR INDICATION OF OUR INTENTION TO INSIST ON INCREASED MUTUALITY OF BENEFIT. IN THE PAST, OUR SIDE HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT ACCOMMODATING IN LIVING WITH AN IMBALANCE IN FAVOR OF THE SOVIETS. THIS WAS EXPECTED, AND WAS KNOWINGLY UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A STIMULUS TO THEIR WORK AND TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO CATCH UP, AS WELL AS TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO WORKING MORE OPENLY ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. THEIR RECORD DURING THE FIRST FIVE YEARS WAS MIXED, SO WE HAVE SET A NEW COURSE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND FIVE YEARS. I SPOKE VERY FRANKLY WITH DR. IZRAEL ON THIS, AND HE RESPONDED VERY POSITIVELY THAT THE SOVIET SIDE SHARES THIS VIEW. I POINTED OUT YOUR FIRM SUPPORT FOR THIS AGREEMENT AS A PART OF YOUR POLICY OF MAINTAINING AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPANDING USEFUL CONTACTS, WHILE NOTING YOUR INSISTENCE THAT ALL SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE BASED ON SUBSTANTIVE BENEFITS FOR BOTH SIDES.

4. IN A RELATED MATTER, I POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE BEEN RATHER GENEROUS IN ALLOWING THEIR ACCESS TO KEY PERSONNEL AND LABORATORIES, AND THAT SIMILAR ACCESS HAS BEEN DENIED TO US ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. THE REASONS GIVEN HAVE VARIED, BUT THE UNDERLYING RATIONALE HAS BEEN THEIR TIGHT SECURITY SYSTEM. THEIR REACTION LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL NOW BE MORE FORTHCOMING. IF THEY ARE NOT, THEN MY STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL INSURE THAT WE BEGIN REDUCING ACCESS ON THIS SIDE. THE SOVIETS ARE TOUGH NEGOTIATORS, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO MATCH THEM WHILE MAINTAINING A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH.

5. DURING THE PROJECT REVIEW THE SOVIET PRESENTATIONS WERE THOROUGH, STRAIGHTFORWARD STATUS REPORTS. ONLY IN THE AREA OF EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION DID THEY EXPRESS ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCERN. HERE THEY FEEL THAT US FUNDING AND PERSONNEL PROBLEMS ARE CAUSING SOME DIFFICULTY. I WAS ABLE TO REASSURE THEM THAT I WOULD LOOK INTO THIS AND

THAT SINCE FRANK PRESS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN PARTICIPANTS ON OUR SIDE, EVERYTHING APPROPRIATE WILL BE DONE TO KEEP THE PROJECT STRONG.

6. THEIR MENTION OF US FUNDING PROBLEMS BRINGS ME TO A POINT WHICH I WILL FURTHER EXPLORE, LINE ITEM FUNDING FOR THE AGREEMENT. WHEREAS MOST OF THE OTHER US-USSR TECHNICAL BILATERALS ARE ESSENTIALLY ONE-AGENCY AGREEMENTS, THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT ENCOMPASSES ELEVEN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, PLUS INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA WORKING ON 41 PROJECTS. ALL OF THESE MUST NOW FIND SUPPORT WITHIN DOMESTIC RESOURCES. I FEEL THAT A SEPARATE LINE ITEM FUND FOR THE PROGRAM COULD PRODUCE IMPROVED RESULTS, PARTICULARLY IN BEING ABLE TO FOCUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE RESOURCES ON THOSE PROJECTS WHERE WE STAND TO GAIN THE MOST. IT WOULD ALSO ALLOW BALANCING OF BENEFIT ACROSS THE AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE, RATHER THAN HAVING TO DO IT STRICTLY ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS AS WE DO NOW. THIS WOULD GIVE US FLEXIBILITY IN BEING ABLE TO MAINTAIN A PROJECT WHICH IS LARGELY BENEFICIAL TO THEM IN EXCHANGE FOR ONE WHICH WOULD BE OF PRIMARY BENEFIT TO US; I THINK PARTICULARLY OF THEIR WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE FAR NORTH. WHEN I HAVE COME TO SOME CONCLUSIONS ON WHETHER TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THIS AND HOW, I WILL LET YOU KNOW. IN THE MEANTIME I WOULD WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE POINT.

7. WE BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON OUR IDEAS FOR NEW PROJECTS IN TWO AREAS. THE FIRST IS THE IDENTIFICATION, CLASSIFICATION AND REGULATION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES. THE SOVIETS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS, AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET THE BENEFIT OF SOME OF THEIR WORK TO HELP US IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DETECTION AND REGULATION OF HARMFUL RADIATION. THESE WILL BE FURTHER EXPLORED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WITH A VIEW TOWARD ADOPTION OF NEW PROJECTS AT THE SIXTH ANNUAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING THIS FALL.

8. IN SUMMARY, THE MEETINGS WENT VERY WELL AND WE CAN EXPECT THAT THE SECOND FIVE YEARS OF WORK UNDER THE AGREEMENT WILL PRODUCE INCREASED BENEFITS TO BOTH SIDES, AS WELL AS AN IMPROVED RATIO OF RESOURCES TO BENEFITS ON OUR SIDE. THE SOVIETS UNDERSTAND YOUR SUPPORT OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE PRINCIPLE OF COOPERATION BASED ON REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES, GOALS AND RESULTS. DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING, IT HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CUSTOMARY FOR A VISITING CO-CHAIRMAN TO BE RECEIVED BY THE HEAD OF STATE. I HOPE THAT WE CAN ARRANGE FOR YOU TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH DR. IZRAEL THIS FALL TO UNDERSCORE YOUR INTEREST AND COMMITMENT TO THE AGREEMENT AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS."

9. FOR SPIELMAN AND COTSWORTH: STROTHER AND SHOSTAL RAISED ISSUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DURING SIDE DISCUSSIONS. SOVIETS HAD NO PROPOSALS AND WERE NOT INTERESTED IN PURSUING SUBJECT. SUBSEQUENT STROTHER DISCUSSIONS IN BONN AND BERLIN WITH RESPONSIBLE FRG OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT THEY SHARE U.S. CONCERN OVER LACK OF ADVANCE PREPARATION FOR TBILISI CONFERENCE. GEORGE

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